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--23. The process of claim 22, wherein both the organic solvent and the said mixture of solvents are selected from the group consisting of ethyl acetate, methyl acetate, and propyl acetate.--

--24. The process of claim 22, wherein the said reacting step is conducted at a reaction temperature between 20°C and 50°C.--

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REMARKS

Claims 16-24 are pending.

Applicants respectfully request that an interference be declared between the present application and U.S. Patent No. 6,476,220 to Uthira Kumar et al. It is respectfully submitted that claim 16 of the present application should be the count of the interference, and that claims 16-24 of the present application and claims 1-3 of the Kumar et al. patent correspond to the count and should be so designated.

Applicants' independent claim 16 thus corresponds exactly to the proposed count. Independent claim 19 simply defines the nature of the reaction inherently occurring in the process of the proposed count, and thus also defines the same invention as the proposed count. Independent claim 22 merely identifies the steps of preparing, mixing and reacting the components of the reaction mixture of the count, and thus defines the same patentable invention as the proposed count. Independent claim 1 of the Kumar et al. patent is substantially identical to Applicants' claim 22, and thus defines the same patentable invention as the proposed count for the same reason as does Applicants' claim 22. Applicants' dependent claims 17, 18, 20, 21, 23 and 24 and Kumar et al. dependent claims 2 and 3 merely further define the solvents and reaction temperatures used in the process of the proposed count, and thus also define the same patentable invention as the proposed count. Accordingly, all of the claims of both parties correspond to the proposed count.

The terms of Applicants' claims 16-24 are supported in Applicants' disclosure, for example, at page 3, line 22-page 4, line 11, page 5, lines 3-8 and 12-15, and the examples.

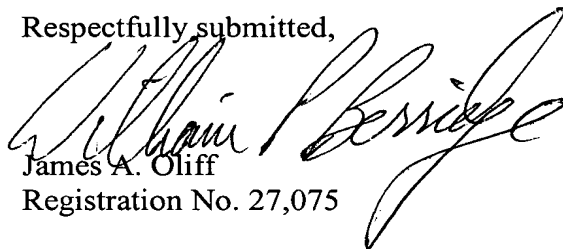
Alternative names for various components are provided in the claims to emphasize that they are alternative names for the identical components, as represented by the structural formulas, and thus the alternative names are either expressly used or inherent in the present application. Similarly, the reference to "nucleophilic displacement" in claim 19 merely defines the inherent nature of the reaction described throughout the application.

Claims 16-24 of the present application correspond substantially to claims 1-3 of Kumar et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,476,220.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, prompt declaration of an interference, based on the proposed count identified above and designating Applicants' claims 16-24 and Patentee's claims 1-3 as corresponding to the count, is respectfully requested.

Should there be any questions concerning this matter, please telephone the undersigned at the number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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